WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A facsimile system which receives image data transmitted through a predetermined computer network, which has a facsimile terminal and a format converter

5    connected to each other, the facsimile system comprising:

image outputting means provided in the facsimile terminal for outputting an image based on image data of a predetermined format arriving with the address

10   directed to itself,

conversion requesting means provided in the facsimile terminal for transmitting the image data to the format converter when the image data format differs from the predetermined format,

15   format converting means provided in the format converter for converting the format of the image data transferred from the facsimile terminal to the predetermined format,

returning means provided in the format converter

20   for transferring the image data after the format is converted by the format converting means to the facsimile terminal which has originally transferred the image data, the source of the image data, and

image output controlling means provided in the

25   facsimile terminal for allowing the image outputting means for outputting the image data transferred from the format converter as image data which has arrived

with the address directed to itself.

2. A facsimile terminal composing a facsimile system for receiving image data transmitted through a predetermined computer network by being connected with a predetermined format converter, the facsimile terminal comprising:

image outputting means for outputting an image based on image data of a predetermined format which has arrived with the address directed to itself,

conversion requesting means for transferring the image data to the format converter when the format of the image data which has arrived with the address directed to itself differs from the predetermined format, and

an image output controlling means that allows the image outputting means to output the image data transferred from the format converter as the image data which has arrived with the address directed to itself.

3. The facsimile terminal according to claim 2, wherein the predetermined format is TIFF (Tagged Image File Format).

4. The facsimile terminal according to claim 2, wherein the conversion requesting means transfers the image data to the format converter by sending out e-mail with the image data attached as the attached file.

5. The facsimile terminal according to claim 4, wherein the conversion requesting means allows the

e-mail with the image data attached as the attached
file to contain the predetermined sender information
for identifying the sender of the image data.

6. The facsimile terminal according to claim 2,
further comprising storage means for storing the
predetermined sender information in memory for
identifying the sender of the transferred image data
while the image data converted to the predetermined
format is transferred from the format converter when
the image data is transferred to the format converter.

7. A format converter which is connected to
a facsimile terminal provided with a function for
outputting an image based on image data of a predeter-
mined format, such that the format converter and the
facsimile terminal constitute a facsimile system that
receives image data transmitted via a predetermined
computer network, said format converter comprising:

format converting means for converting the format
of the image data transferred from the facsimile
terminal into the predetermined format, and

returning means for transferring the image data
whose format has been converted by the format
converting means to the facsimile terminal which has
originally transferred the image data that served as
the source of the image data.

8. The format converter according to claim 7,
wherein the predetermined format is TIFF (Tagged Image

File Format).

9. The format converter according to claim 7, wherein the returning means transfers the image data to the facsimile terminal by sending out the e-mail with the image data attached as an attached file after the format has been converted by the format converting means.

10. The format converter according to claim 9, wherein the returning means allows the predetermined sender information contained in the e-mail with the image data attached, which served as the source of the image data, to be contained in the e-mail with the image data attached as the attached file after the format has been converted by the format converting means.